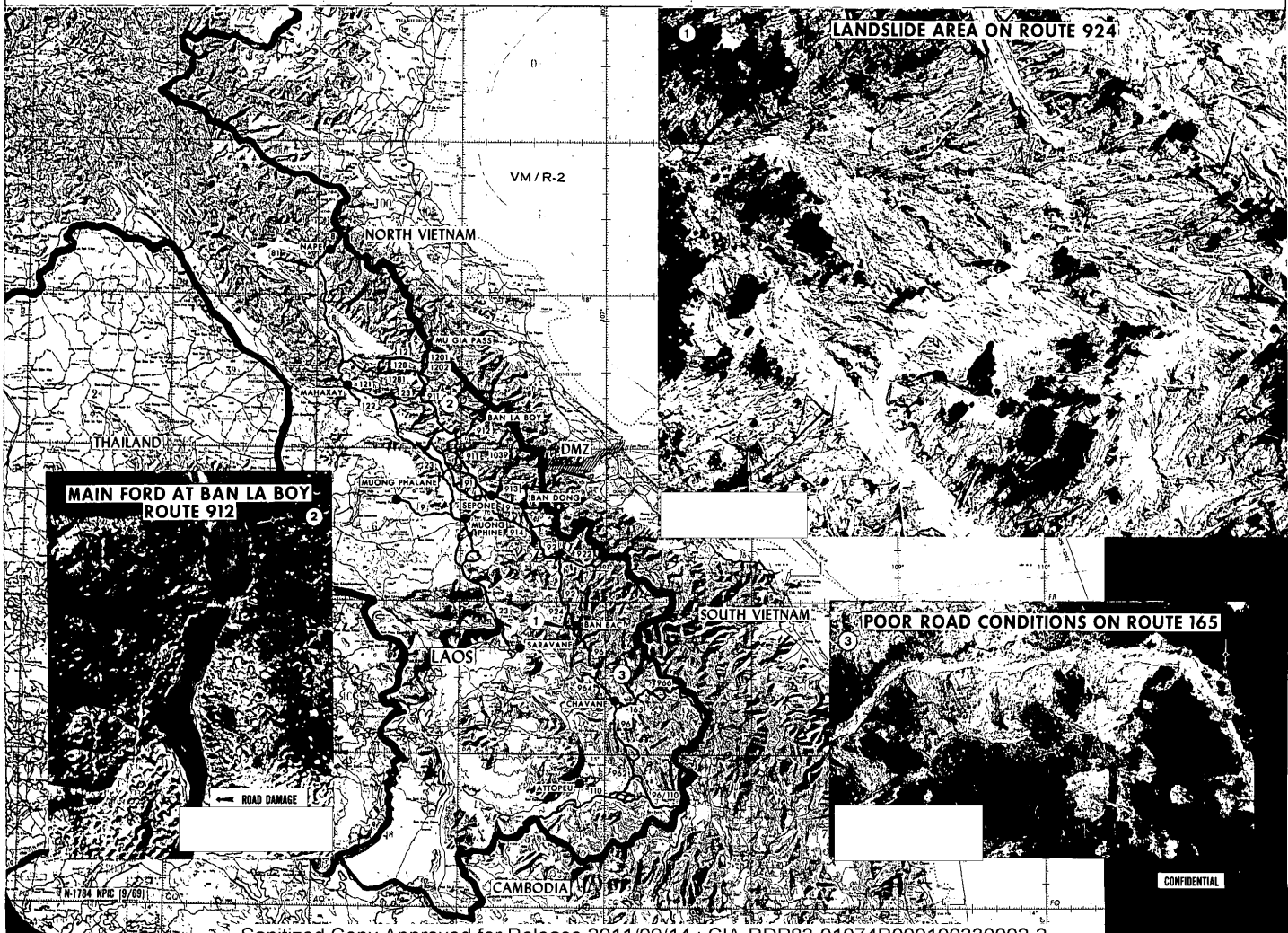


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CLOSED ENEMY ROADS

LAOS PANHANDLE



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REFERENCE:

CLOSED ENEMY ROADS
LAOS PANHANDLE

1. SIGNIFICANCE:

FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1966 ALL THE MAJOR ROADS IN THE ENEMY-CONTROLLED AREA OF THE LAOS PANHANDLE HAVE BEEN RENDERED UNSERVICEABLE BY THE UNUSUALLY HEAVY MONSOON RAINS AND THE HEAVY INTERDICTORY BOMBINGS.

2. LOCATION:

FROM DEO KEO NUA PASS (NAPE AREA) IN THE NORTH TO THE CAMBODIAN BORDER.

3. REMARKS:

DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS THE SO-CALLED "ALL-WEATHER" HO CHI MINH TRAIL WAS GENERALLY OPEN THROUGH MU GIA AND BAN KARAI PASSES SOUTHWARD TO INCLUDE ROUTE 922.

4. COLLATERAL:

THE MONSOON SEASONAL RAINS WERE NOT ONLY MUCH MORE SEVERE THIS YEAR THAN IN THE PAST FEW YEARS BUT THEY ALSO REACHED THEIR PEAK MUCH EARLIER THIS YEAR. DURING THE MONTH OF JULY THIS YEAR WEATHER STATISTICS INDICATE APPROXIMATE DOUBLE THE RAINFALL. FRIENDLY

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GUERRILLAS OPERATING IN THE PANHANDLE AREA REPORT
NUMEROUS WASHOUTS ALONG THE ROADS AND PRACTICALLY
NO TRUCK TRAFFIC. A PORTION OF ROUTE 23, WITH
THE ENTIRE ROADBED WASHED OUT, WAS REPORTED BEING
CULTIVATED AS A RICE FIELD.

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7. MISSION READOUT:

PHOTOGRAPHY [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] FLOWN DURING MID-TO-LATE AUGUST PRO-

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VIDED THE BASIS FOR THIS ANALYSIS.

THE GENERAL CONDITION OF THE COMMUNIST CONTROLLED
ROADS IN THE LAOS PANHANDLE IS VERY POOR, HOWEVER,
ROUTES 8, 239, AND 911 NORTH OF 912 HAD ONLY A
LIMITED NUMBER OF INTERDICTIONS, WHICH COULD BE
REPAIRED WITH A LIMITED AMOUNT OF MAINTENANCE.

ROUTES IN EXTREMELY POOR CONDITION INCLUDE THE ROADS
TRAVERSING MU GIA PASS (12,1201 AND 1202), THE
SEGMENT OF 96 BETWEEN BAN BAC AND ITS INTERSECTION
WITH 964, ALL OF ROUTE 964, AND THE EASTERN TWO-
THIRDS OF ROUTES 912, 922, AND 165/966. THESE
ROUTES, IN ADDITION TO BOMB CRATERS AND LANDSLIDES,

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HAVE EXTENSIVE WASHOUTS, FORDS AND FERRY
CROSSINGS IN DISREPAIR, AND NUMEROUS TREES
BLOCKING TRAFFIC OVER THE ROAD.

INSET ONE - THIS TYPICAL LANDSLIDE AREA IS
LOCATED ON ROUTE 924 NEAR BAN BAC.

INSET TWO - THE MAIN FORD AT BAN LA BOY IS
WHERE ROUTE 912 CROSSES THE NAM TA LE (RIVER).
SEVERAL POINTS ON THIS SEGMENT NEED REPAIR.
BYPASSES AROUND THIS FORD ARE ALSO UNSERVICEABLE.

INSET THREE - THE CONDITION OF ROUTE 165 AND 966
BECOMES PROGRESSIVELY WORSE FROM WEST TO EAST.
THE EXAMPLE, ROUTE 165 EAST OF CHAVANE, IS TYPICAL
OF MANY PLACES ALONG THE ROAD WHICH WILL NEED
REPAIR TO BECOME SERVICEABLE.

THE MAP DEPICTS THE MAJOR COMMUNIST ROAD NET IN
THE LAOS PANHANDLE. SCALE IS 1:1,000,000.

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